

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

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Chairman: Kenny Spooler
Vice Chairman: Mark Reitzel
Secretary: Anthony Ohmes
Treasurer: Susan Jahn
Member: Gary Bock
District Manager: Paula Meier
District Technician: Denise Essner

Phone: (573) 243-1467, ext. 3

www.swcd.mo.gov/capegirardeau/index.htm



May 2014

James T. Hunt
NRCS District Conservationist

Monica Siler
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Scott Crumpecker
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Brad Pobst
Private Lands Conservationist
Missouri Department of Conservation

*Lend a Helping Hand to
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

NRCS and MU Hosting Free Soil Health Expo August 13-14



The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the University of Missouri are hosting a free Soil Health Exposition August 13-14, 2014. The exposition will be at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center (4968 Rangeline Road), about six miles east of Columbia.

The two day exposition will feature vendors, tours, demonstrations and presentations by farmers who have successfully incorporated cover crops into their operations.

The exposition will feature an open admission, so participants may attend as few or as many of the sessions as they choose. Events will be occurring from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: climate variability; understanding soil data; economics of cover crops; cover cropping and improved infiltration; effects of Glyphosate on soil biology; the latest soil health field equipment; field demonstrations; soils exhibits; and

soil pits and properties. Equipment and seed dealers also will be present. A detailed agenda will be available later.

2013 AWARDS GIVEN AT MARCH OPEN HOUSE



The Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank everyone that attended and helped make our Open House on March 19th a success! During the Open House a presentation was given by Dave Jones (top left) with Missouri One Call. Awards were given for the Conservation Farmer of the Year and the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year. Accepting the award for Conservation Farmer of the Year was Phillip Wichern (right) of Wichern Farms LLC which was presented by SWCD board member, Gary Bock. The Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award was presented by SWCD Chairman Mark Reitzel and accepting the award was John Dudley (bottom left).



Elections were also held at the Open House for Areas II and IV. Kenny Spooler was re-elected to represent Area II which includes Whitewater, Byrd, and Kinder townships. Mark Reitzel was re-elected to represent Area IV which includes Hubble, Liberty, and Welch townships.



Missouri State Women in Ag Conference to be held in Hannibal

The 20th Annual Missouri Women In Agriculture Conference will be held September 15th – 17th, 2014 in Hannibal, Missouri. The theme of this year's conference is "Missouri Women in Agriculture – River Style". The 2014 Women in Agriculture Conference will include workshops, vendor/exhibitor booths, and a banquet with guest speaker Dr. Jerry Crownover on Monday, tours of the area on Tuesday, and guest speaker Chris Chinn and closing ceremony on Wednesday. The conference planning committee is currently working on the agenda and activities for the conference. Approximately 160 are expected to attend the conference this year. For more information please contact the Soil & Water Conservation District at 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson MO or by calling 573.243.1467 ext. 3.

Conservation Compliance Reminder!



If you are tilling your Highly Erodible (HEL) crop ground every year or even every 2 out of 3 years, you are most likely not in compliance with your crop rotation. This is especially true if wheat is not a part of your rotation. HEL Compliance is required to be eligible for farm program benefits (payments) received from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Annual compliance status reviews are completed every year in June on randomly selected tracts throughout the county. Crop residues that are left in the field after the crops have been harvested are important for many reasons. They are good sources of plant nutrients, they add organic material to the soil, and they reduce erosion. Therefore, the more crop residue left on the surface throughout the year, the better your chances of not losing soil to erosion.



WANTED!

Cape Girardeau Soil and Water Conservation District Summer Internship



WANTED!

Definition

This position is to assist field office staff with implementing conservation practices that address Soil and Water Conservation on private land. Rate of pay is established at \$8.00 per hour for approximately 352 hours, to be completed between May 19 and Aug 15, 2014.

Basic Requirements

Applicants must be a higher education student (college, university, technical school etc.). The student is responsible for working with the college/university for determination of credit(s) received if any.

Duties & Responsibilities

- **Assist with conservation practice design, planning, and surveying.**
- **Prepare maps and designs in accordance with SWCD policies and NRCS standards and specifications.**
- **Participate in and provide support to district programs.**
- **Assist with district annual maintenance follow-up.**

Knowledge Skills and Abilities

- **Knowledge of computer systems.**
- **Ability to keep accurate technical notes and documentation.**
- **Ability to work independently and to exercise good judgment.**
- **Ability to work outdoors in all types of weather and to travel over rough terrain.**



How To Apply

Completed applications and a copy of a current transcript must be submitted by 12:00 pm on May 9th 2014. Any questions, please contact Paula Meier at the Cape Co SWCD office at 573-243-1467 ext 3 or by email at paula.meier@swcd.mv.gov



ANNUAL CAPE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST

REQUISITES:



- * Applicants must be a graduate of a Cape Girardeau County High School and a Cape Girardeau County resident at the time of graduation from high school.**

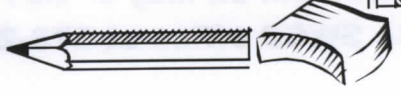
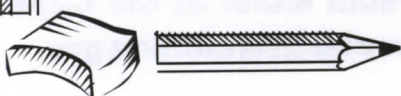
- * Applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 hours of college level course work toward an undergraduate degree.**

- * Applicants must be enrolled in a four year degree program that falls into one of the following subject matter categories: Agriculture, Agriculture Business, or Natural Resources**

- * Applicants must have a GPA of a least 2.5.**

Applications may be picked up at the office at 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson, Missouri.

Applications for the \$500 essay contest are due Friday July 11, 2014. Please contact the office at (573) 243-1467 ext 3 if you have any questions.



Shrub Borders Give the Edge to Wildlife

Got a well kept farm, but not as much wildlife as you would like?

Could be you have very little edge habitat, that zone of shrubs, grasses, legumes and weeds between forests and crop fields.

For wildlife habitat, you want a "soft" or gradual transition from crop field to woodland, rather than an abrupt change from one to the other.

A shrub border of lespedza, indigobush, crabapple or other shrub can help you do that.

Plant five to seven rows of shrubs between the field and the woodland. Spacing depends on the mature size of the shrubs you choose; typically, they are planted 4' to 6' apart between rows, so they can be cultivated.

The more variety in the shrubs, the better it is for wildlife. That's because some shrubs offer better nesting cover than others, some better escape cover, and some are better loafing cover. The mixture of shrubs provides fruits that mature at different seasons, and fruits that remain on the plants for different lengths of time. For both reasons, the mixture of shrubs will attract a more diverse group of wildlife.

Shrubs commonly recommended for borders include lespedza, silky dogwood, American plum, chokecherry, blackhaw viburnum, indigobush, and crabapple.

Prepare a clean seedbed and be prepared to cultivate the weeds between and beside each row for the first year, to eliminate competition for young shrubs.

You can improve the shrub border's value to wildlife by adding ten more feet of grasses or legumes on the crop side of the border. A mixture of partridge pea and Korean lespedeza will offer young quail and turkeys a prime bug area.

Native grasses like little bluestem and Indiangrass work well, as do a number of clovers. Another good option is to plant an annual game bird mix including seeds such as milo, millet, soybeans or wheat. It's a built in food plot near a wooded area that you would leave standing for two or three years. You could also disk the area and allow native weeds to regenerate naturally. Discing the area once every three years will help to spark new growth of weeds.

Covey Headquarter Management Calendar

May Listen for quail whistle calls on clear calm mornings.

Nesting season begins for quail and other grassland birds – keep your mower in the barn.

Plant food plots this month for best results.

Conduct breeding bird counts.

June Begin spraying actively growing Johnson grass.

Mow newly planted native grass stands to a height of 6-8 inches for weed control.

Peak of quail hatching is June 15.

Conduct breeding bird surveys now through June 30.

Seed milo, millet, and forage sorghum food plots before June 30.

July Spray sericea lespedeza now through September.

Mow newly planted native grass stands a second time to a height of 6-8 inches for weed control.

Excessive June and July rains shifts peak quail hatch to August.

Improve wildflower diversity by burning warm season grass starting July 16.

Apply herbicide to set back warm season grass starting July 16.

August Till firebreaks to prepare for prescribed burns.

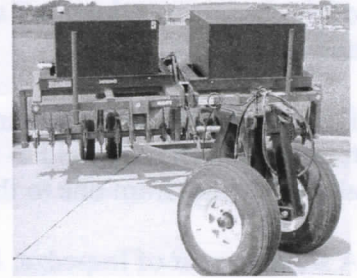
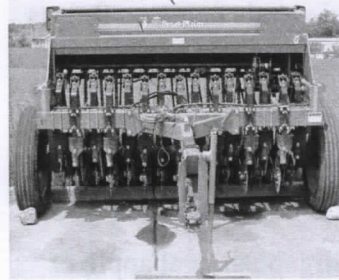
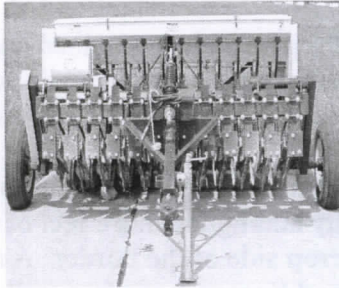
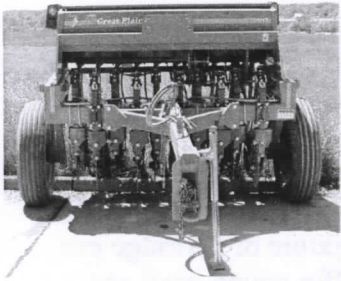
Mow or burn fescue to prepare for fall herbicide treatments.

Continue to treat sericea lespedeza through September.

Re-nests and second quail broods hatching – do not mow idle areas.

FOR RENT NO TILL DRILLS & PASTURE RENOVATOR

The SWCD would like to remind everyone the District has a 10' Great Plains Drill and a 7' Great Plains Drill for rent along with a 8' Truax Drill (warm season grasses). The District also has a Rhino Pasture Renovator available for rent. The 10' drill rents for \$9/AC (10AC minimum), the 7' drill rents for \$8/AC (10AC minimum), the 8' drill rents for \$10/AC, and the renovator rents for \$6/AC (5AC minimum). If you would like to schedule either the drills or the renovator, please call 573-243-1467 ext 3.



WILDLIFE WAYS DID YOU KNOW.....

The ring-necked pheasant was introduced to the United States from Asia before the 1800s. A very popular game bird, the pheasant is now found across much of the northern two-thirds of the country.

Non Profit Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jackson, MO
63755
Permit No. 78

Cape Girardeau
Soil and Water Conservation District
480 W. Jackson Trail • Jackson, MO 63755

Return Service Requested